

Amendments to the claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of the claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for searching an electronic program guide comprising:
  - displaying a schedule for a first program from program data;
  - extracting a selected program's title from said schedule;
  - displaying a plurality of first search elements derived from the description of the first program and a selected program's title;
  - enabling a user to modify the selected title, the modified title being at least one of an abbreviation, a truncation and an expansion of the selected title;
  - selecting at least one of the plurality of first search elements;
  - enabling a user to assign discrete incremental weight to at least one of said plurality of first search elements, the discrete incremental weight being a discrete value specified via an input device;
  - finding at least one of a plurality of second programs similar to the first program, the found program having at least one of a plurality of second search elements derived from the description of the second program that matches the selected search element; and
  - displaying the found programs most similar to the first program before the found programs least similar to the first program, wherein the found programs most similar to the first program have the greatest number of search element matches.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Previously amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
  - displaying a plurality of search parameters derived from the schedule of the first program;
  - selecting at least one of the plurality of search parameters; and

displaying the found programs most within the search parameters before the found programs least within the search parameters.

4. (Previously amended) The method of claim 3 further wherein the found programs most similar to the first program have the greatest number of search element matches having the greatest weight.

5. (Previously amended) The method of claim 3 further comprising:

specifying a parameter weight associated with a selected search parameter, wherein the found programs most within the search parameters are the found programs most within the search parameters having the greatest weight.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the discrete value is selected from a range of values displayed as a continuum.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the range of values displayed as a continuum is a slider graphic.

9-10. (Canceled)

11. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the parameter weight is a second discrete value specified via an input device.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the second discrete value is selected from a second range of values displayed as a continuum.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the second range of values displayed as a continuum is a slider graphic.

14. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the second discrete value is selected using a keypad.

15. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the second discrete value is selected using a slider mechanism on a remote control device.

16. (Previously amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of first search elements is selected from the group consisting of a program title, an actor, a director, and a genre.

17. (Previously amended) The method of claim 3, wherein the plurality of search parameters is selected from the group consisting of a show time and a channel.

18. (Currently amended) An apparatus for searching an electronic program guide comprising:

a first display of a schedule for a first program from a program data;

a second display, associated with the first display, of a plurality of first search elements derived from the description of the first program and a selected program's title;

enabling a user to modify the selected title, the modified title being at least one of an abbreviation, a truncation and an expansion of the selected title;

a device, coupled to the second display, to select at least one of the displayed first search elements, to allow a user to modify the selected title and to assign a discrete incremental weight to at least one of said plurality of first search elements, the discrete incremental weight being a discrete value specified via an input-device;

a search logic, coupled to the selector, to find at least one of a plurality of programs similar to the first program, the found program having at least one of a plurality of second search elements derived from the description of the second program that matched the selected first search element; and

a results display, associated with the second display, of the found programs most similar to the first program before the found programs least similar to the first program, wherein the found programs most similar to the first program have the greatest number of search element matches.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously amended) The apparatus of claim 18 further comprising:

the second display further comprising of a plurality of search parameters derived from the schedule of the first program;

a second selector, coupled to the second display, to select at least one of the plurality of search parameters; and

the results display, further comprising the found programs most within the search parameters before the found programs least within the search parameters.

21. (Previously amended) The apparatus of claim 20 wherein the found program most similar to the first program have the greatest number of search element matches having the greatest weight.

22. (Previously amended) The apparatus of claim 20 further comprising:

a parameter weight associated with a selected search parameter, wherein the found programs most within the search parameters are the found programs most within the search parameters having the greatest weight.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Previously amended) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the discrete value is selected from a range of values displayed as a continuum.

25. (Original) The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the range of values displayed as a continuum is a slider graphic.

26-27. (Canceled)

28. (Original) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the parameter weight is a second discrete value specified via an input device.

29. (Original) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the second discrete value is selected from a second range of values displayed as a continuum.

30. (Original) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the second range of values displayed as a continuum is a slider graphic.

31. (Original) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the second discrete value is selected using a keypad.

32. (Original) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the second discrete value is selected using a slider mechanism on a remote control device.

33. (Previously amended) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the plurality of first search elements is selected from the group consisting of a program title, an actor, a director, and a genre.

34. (Original) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the plurality of search parameters is selected from the group consisting of a show time and a channel.

35. (Currently amended) An apparatus comprising:

    a machine-accessible medium including instructions that, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to perform:

        displaying a schedule for a first program from program data;

        extracting a selected program's title from said schedule;

        displaying a plurality of first search elements derived from the description of the first program and a selected program's title;

        enabling a user to modify the selected title, the modified title being at least one of an abbreviation, a truncation and an expansion of the selected title;

        selecting at least one of the plurality of first search elements;

enabling a user to assign discrete incremental weight to at least one of said plurality of first search elements, the discrete incremental weight being a discrete value specified via an input device;

finding at least one of a plurality of programs similar to the first program, the found program having at least one of a plurality of second search elements derived from the description of the second program that matches the selected first search element; and

displaying the found programs most similar to the first program before the found programs least similar to the first program, wherein the found programs most similar to the first program have the greatest number of search element matches.

36. (Canceled)

37. (Previously amended) The apparatus of claim 35, wherein the instructions cause the machine to further perform:

displaying a plurality of search parameters derived from the schedule of the first program;

selecting at least one of the plurality of search parameters; and

displaying the found programs most within the search parameters before the found programs least within the search parameters.

38. (Previously amended) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the found programs most similar to the first program have the greatest number of search element matches having the greatest weight.

39. (Original) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the instructions cause the machine to further perform:

specifying a parameter weight associated with a selected search parameter, wherein the found programs most within the search parameters are the found programs most within the search parameters having the greatest weight.

40. (Canceled)

41. (Previously amended) The apparatus of claim 35, wherein the discrete value is selected from a range of values displayed as a continuum.

42. (Original) The apparatus of claim 41, wherein the range of values displayed as a continuum is a slider graphic.

43. (Original) The apparatus of claim 41, wherein the discrete value is selected using a keypad.

44. (Original) The apparatus of claim 41, wherein the discrete value is selected using a slider mechanism on a remote control device.

45. (Original) The apparatus of claim 39, wherein the parameter weight is a second discrete value specified via an input device.

46. (Original) The apparatus of claim 45, wherein the second discrete value is selected from a second range of values displayed as a continuum.

47. (Original) The apparatus of claim 46, wherein the second range of values displayed as a continuum is a slider graphic.

48. (Original) The apparatus of claim 45, wherein the second discrete value is selected using a keypad.

49. (Original) The apparatus of claim 45, wherein the second discrete value is selected using a slider mechanism on a remote control device.

50. (Previously amended) The apparatus of claim 35, wherein the plurality of first search elements is selected from the group consisting of a program title, an actor, a director, and a genre.

51. (Original) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the plurality of search parameters is selected from the group consisting of a show time and a channel.